

but we need to do that with the military. We can see the positive things they have done and build upon that.

This has been a magnificent victory. If bin Laden is alive today, he is in hiding and he is spending all of his hours not trying to launch some attack on us, but instead he is spending his time trying not to be captured. He could be spending his time mapping out attacks on the United States. Instead, thanks to the expertise and bravery and courage and great job our military has done, we have bin Laden and his likes in hiding, looking over their shoulders, freezing their assets, not able to launch another attack of the magnitude that we suffered one year ago today.

We have accomplished all of this, a tremendous accomplishment in a country on the other side of the world, landlocked. We did this with fewer than 50 American combat deaths. We dislodged the Taliban government from power, we destroyed the regime, we dislodged the terrorists, all with fewer than 50 American combat deaths.

Yes, there have been some mistakes, and in every combat situation there are. If accidentally a house or area is bombed, if we bombed some of our friends accidentally, which has happened, we just need to admit that it was a mistake and help those people rebuild. They will understand, because the Afghan people are praising us as their liberators. We have fought beside the mujahedin again, the freedom fighters of Afghanistan again, to free their land from the Taliban tyranny. As I say, there have been mistakes, but compared to what has been accomplished, this mission gets an A.

Let me note that I have two complaints. They are small complaints and the Afghan people will put up with them for now, but I think that we need to pay attention.

Number one, I do not believe Karzai was the right guy to pick. He does not have a wide base of support in Afghanistan. When the loya jirga was held, we should have permitted the king to emerge, as would have naturally happened. I think there was some wheeling and dealing going on that led to Karzai's ascension, and the king could have been there. He was the natural choice.

But I believe the Afghan people have good hearts and understanding. They know we are there to help them. They know there are political considerations. But they are demanding, of course, free elections in 2 years, and that is what we should be doing, making sure that we keep that pledge and that there are free elections. And if they want to elect anybody, whether it is Karzai or a member of the royal family or whoever it is, they should have a right to do so. We should work with them and help to rebuild their country, and that will be one way to really defeat the Taliban and really defeat al Qaeda. The people of Afghanistan have looked at us as liberators.

The other concern is about drugs. We have not eliminated the drug produc-

tion in Afghanistan. The poppy crop was not destroyed. We have got to do so next year. That commitment has to be there. That drug money goes into bad hands.

Finally, let us take a look at the challenge we have today and look ahead a year. The President has wisely suggested that now is the time for us to eliminate that threat that hangs over us and has hung over us for 10 years. We did not complete the job in the Gulf War. We left Saddam Hussein in power. That was the gift that George Bush, Sr., gave to us. George Bush, Jr., is going to make up for that. He has committed us to eliminating the dictatorial, fascistic regime of Saddam Hussein.

We should not be weary of this. In fact, we should know that Saddam Hussein has less support in Iraq than the Taliban had support in Afghanistan. Our strategy should be to help the people of Iraq liberate themselves from this monstrous regime headed by Saddam Hussein. The people of Iraq will be waving American flags and dancing in the street because we will help them build a democratic society. We can do so with the same strategy as we did in Afghanistan, work with Special Forces teams and air support. We can support those people who want to fight for their own freedom. It worked in Afghanistan, it will work in Iraq. We should not have fear and trepidation about getting rid of this threat of Saddam Hussein. He is, as George Shultz suggested, a rattlesnake in our front yard, and we should not wait until he bites us to cut its head off.

Now we can move forward in Iraq and eliminate that threat, as we have eliminated the Taliban threat, and we can do so not by sending huge numbers of American forces, but by helping the people in Iraq, as we did in Afghanistan, to liberate themselves. That is what the challenge the President is giving us is. That is why we as Americans should always stand for those people who want to live in a free society and are willing with their courage and blood to fight for their freedom, but need our help logistically, need our air support, perhaps need our advice from our Special Forces teams.

So, as we remember 9-11, let us never repeat that, by being proactive in the future. Where there are dictatorships and fascist regimes, like the Taliban, and if they threaten the West and the United States, we do not have to do with this all regimes that are dictatorial, but if they threaten us, let us work with the people who suffer with a boot on their face and with an iron grip around their necks, let us work with those people to help them free themselves.

We have on the floor of the House of Representatives two pictures, one of George Washington, a great painting of George Washington, and a painting of Lafayette. Lafayette came here during the American Revolution to help us win our freedom. Let us not forget the

French helped us win our freedom, and that people like Lafayette were heroes to early Americans.

While we must serve that same role that Lafayette served to us, we must serve that role to those people overseas who long for liberty and justice. If we do so, we will be the light of the world. We will be the hope of all the young people in the Muslim countries who are looking for some people who believe in something, rather than people who are talking about stability and keeping the status quo.

We need to be the ones who offer moral alternatives, and the morality we offer is democratic government and a respect for human rights, treating people decently. Our flag should stand for justice and hope. If we do, rather than the type of things we were doing in the 1990s with Communist China and the Taliban and all of these regimes, where we were not doing anything to make it clear that we honestly and sincerely believed these founding principles of our society, if we do that, we will be free and we will be safe.

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There is a dynamic in this world between peace and freedom. Freedom tomorrow will bring peace. Just as we lived under the threat of some sort of war with the Soviet Union, the Soviet people, the Russian people were never our enemies. It was that system. As soon as we made it a fight between communism and democracy and stopped just supporting any dictatorship that was against the Communists, the Communist system itself began to crumble in Moscow, and no one was more heroic in that fight against the Soviet dictatorship than the people of Afghanistan. They fought and they bled and they gave us a more peaceful and a freer world.

We did not do what was right by them. We did not help them rebuild their country at that time; we did not stick with them. We left it up to the Saudis and the Pakistanis. We have a chance now to make up for that. But we must persevere in helping them rebuild their country; and that will cement peace in that region, because people will believe in us again. We need, again, to make sure that we become the force for liberty and justice and decent treatment for people all over the world, and that is where we will find America's security. Let us have the courage to do so. Our President has charted a wise course, and we should have the tenacity and the courage to follow this through now that we have learned after 9-11 that there are consequences to pay when we do not.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 464, PATRIOT DAY RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.Con. Resolution 464,

commemorating the solemn occasion of the first anniversary of September 11, 2001, and the vicious attack on the United States and its people that day.

September 11 will long be remembered not just for the death and destruction brought upon America and too many of our people, but also for the day in which innocence was lost. The hijacking of civilian aircraft and the taking of thousands of innocent bystanders' lives will forever be among the most heinous of crimes against humanity. Yet, while the attacks, designed to shake our Nation to its deepest roots and break our spirit to be a leader of the Free World, they only served to strengthen our resolve and show the world that the American sense of kindness and community could not be broken even by the most awful of acts.

In the midst of a living hell only Dante could describe, Americans rose to respond, first by the police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel who poured into burning buildings which had become infernos, risking life and limb to save a fellow citizen and later by military force. As we now know, many made the ultimate sacrifice. Yet, rather than create panic and chaos, the attacks by the terrorists only served to underscore our resolve. Clearly, in the early hours following the attacks, the actions of otherwise ordinary Americans proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the terrorists failed in their ultimate goal. While they were able to cause pain and suffering and shatter a sense of security felt here at home, they failed in destroying the spirit which is America. And, in causing the death and destruction, they exposed the world to their own twisted ideology of anger and hate and a lack of respect for freedom and human life.

Mr. Speaker, in the intervening months, America, with our allies, has proven militarily that we can and will respond to defend ourselves and our freedom throughout the world. But even as important as it has been to respond swiftly and forcefully, it is now clear that the actions of those Americans who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, and those who responded to help them, and the faith that they inspired in the rest of us, resulted in a victory over the terrorists that very day.

Now, we must continue to battle for freedom and democracy throughout the world, not only for our own defense, but also in the memory of those who first gave their lives for the cause on September 11, 2001.

GOODWILL OF UKRAINE HELPS AMERICA HEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this hallowed day, the anniversary of the

terrible terrorist attacks upon the United States, is one that is observed throughout America. The eloquence of our colleagues in this House has stirred our hearts, described our attitudes, and revealed the Nation's character. America's tragedy is mourned this day throughout the world, too.

It is important for Americans to understand and appreciate the outpouring of support, the gestures of solidarity, and the prayers of the faithful bestowed upon us by the people of the world. As cochairman of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I rise today to speak about one country's goodwill toward the American people in commemoration of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have always been an ardent supporter of democratic development in Ukraine. The full commercial and strategic potential of a democratic Ukraine is staggering and the desire for freedom is deeply rooted in the American psyche.

Mr. Speaker, in the House the days and the weeks following the attacks, the Ukrainian people grieved with America and the rest of the world. The sentiments of the Ukrainian people were echoed in a letter from Bishop Stanislaw Shyrokoradiuk of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kyiv-Zhytomyr. Here is what the bishop said, what he wrote:

"I would like to present to you and in you, to all American people, our condolences because of the terrible tragedy that has stricken the whole world.

"We have been deeply shaken to know about the series of acts of terrorism that happened in the United States of America yesterday.

"It has been an awful blow by its cruelty and scale that struck not only the U.S.A., but all humanity. I received this notice during spiritual retreats in our Higher Spiritual Seminary in Vorzel, where all priests of our Diocese came. As a sign of our unity and sympathy in your grief, we celebrated Holy Mass for the souls of the departed and prayed for all victims. May the Lord strengthen them by His grace that they may outlive this horrible disaster.

"There are Divine Services and prayers said for the souls of the departed victims, and for all of those who have suffered, in all of our churches.

"These day our hearts and prayers are with you and your people.

"Sincerely Yours, Bishop Stanislaw Shyrokoradiuk, the Vicar general of Kyiv Zhytomyr Diocese." Bishop Shyrokoradiuk in Ukraine sent that the day after.

As a country, Ukraine immediately declared its solidarity with the United States, offering its support morally, technically, militarily and with the capabilities of its infrastructure. Ukraine's stance clearly demonstrated its friendship with the United States and the forces of freedom.

Most helpful has been Ukraine's clearance of airspace for nearly 5,000

aircraft flying in from Afghanistan and aid in transporting allied troops and materiel by air and train. Ukraine also provided planes and crews in order to provide transportation for coalition forces and humanitarian missions over Iran.

Ukrainian security forces have been cooperating with Americans offering intelligence regarding the fighting in Afghanistan and other security concerns. Ukraine's international efforts in leading the Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia Group, called GUUAM, to secure strategic transport corridors from terrorist activity have helped secure the entire regional community. Ukraine has cooperated with us in blocking and investigating the financial transactions and accounts of suspected terrorists.

Just today, Mr. Speaker, Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna (Supreme) Rada, unanimously passed three resolutions in support of America. One extends Ukraine's profound sympathy to the families and friends of victims. The other directs the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to establish a memorial at the World Trade Center in New York to the Ukrainians who perished there. The third resolution outlines Ukraine's commitment to the future of freedom and reaffirms Ukraine's solidarity in the war on terrorism and its commitment to strengthening international peace and security.

This latter resolution lucidly addresses issues of global concern, including environmental problems and global health issues. Currently, Ukraine is preparing to send two IL-76 cargo planes loaded with small arms, ammunition, and other military equipment to outfit the Afghan National Army.

This morning, the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, met with our ambassador, Carlos Pascual. The President pledged his country's continued support for Operation Enduring Freedom and expressed his regret for the loss of lives in America 1 year ago.

This afternoon, Ukraine's Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko visited me in my office here in Washington, D.C. and extended his country's condolences, support, and solidarity. He asked me to express to the House Ukraine's commitment to America's war on terrorism. He assured me that the prayers of countless Ukrainians are for the repose of the souls of the victims.

At this moment in Kyiv, Mr. Speaker, Ukrainians are paying their respects as they observe a large photo collage of Ground Zero. The display honors the emergency workers and heroes of 9-11. There is a similar exhibit at the Ukrainian National Gallery; and on Friday, they will hold a commemorative concert at the National Opera.

Ukraine's condemnation of international terrorism, its much-appreciated support on the war on terrorism, its tough, newly enacted laws to combat terrorism and its commitment to fight at the side of the United States